

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request continued examination and reconsideration of the merits of this Application. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 95-124 are pending in the application. Claims 1-94 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 95, 103, 110, and 118 are independent claims. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Because the foregoing changes introduce no new matter, Applicants request their entry.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Applicants respectfully submit that, because all previously pending claims have been cancelled, all rejections in the prior Office Action are rendered moot.

II. New Claims Are Patentable

New claim 95 is directed to an apparatus for dispensing liquids into a reaction vessel. The apparatus comprises, in part, a liquid dispenser comprising a plurality of dispensing nozzles “wherein said dispensing nozzles are substantially stationary.”

It is respectfully submitted that Huber fails to teach or suggest dispensing nozzles that are substantially stationary. Further, none of the other cited references teach or suggest such dispensing nozzles in combination with the additional limitations of claim 95. Thus, claim 95 is patentable over the cited art.

New claim 103 is directed to a method for dispensing liquids into a reaction vessel. The method comprises, in part, a liquid dispenser comprising a plurality of dispensing nozzles “wherein said dispensing nozzles are substantially stationary.”

It is respectfully submitted that Huber, as discussed above, fails to teach or suggest dispensing nozzles that are substantially stationary. Further, none of the other cited references teach or suggest such dispensing nozzles in combination with the additional limitations of claim 103. Thus, claim 103 is patentable over the cited art.

New claim 110 is directed to an apparatus for dispensing liquids into a reaction vessel. The apparatus comprises, in part, a liquid dispenser comprising a plurality of dispensing nozzles “wherein said dispensing nozzles are configured to be moveable solely along a linear path.”

It is respectfully submitted that Huber fails to teach or suggest dispensing nozzles that are configured to be moveable solely along a linear path. Further, none of the other cited references teach or suggest such dispensing nozzles in combination with the additional limitations of claim 110. Thus, claim 110 is patentable over the cited art.

New claim 118 is directed to a method for dispensing liquids into a reaction vessel. The method comprises, in part, a liquid dispenser comprising a plurality of dispensing nozzles “wherein said dispensing nozzles are configured to be moveable solely along a linear path.”

It is respectfully submitted that Huber, as discussed above, fails to teach or suggest dispensing nozzles that are configured to be moveable solely along a linear path. Further, none of the other cited references teach or suggest such dispensing nozzles in combination with the additional limitations of claim 118. Thus, claim 118 is patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. 469249-00078); Docket No. A-68717-2).

Applicants respectfully request prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Request for Continued Examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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